



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

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ERRATUM in “USA SF₆ emissions on the decrease” (July 2004 News)

We apologize for having given in the July News erroneous figures for the annual SF₆ Emissions from Electric Power Systems and Original Equipment Manufactures in the US.

Corrected data: the peak in 2000 reached 660 tonnes/year.
Since then, emissions have decreased, down to 650 tonnes/year in 2001 and to 620 in 2002.

Source:

[EPA](#)

Fluorocarbon producers support ambitious MAC project to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Fluorocarbon producers have announced a global initiative to fund the [Mobile Air Conditioning Climate Protection Partnership](#) (which represents industry, government and environmental advocacy organizations), for its programme aiming at dramatically increasing the energy efficiency and substantially reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from [MAC](#) (motor vehicle air-conditioning) systems. This programme was [announced](#) at the Mobile Air Conditioning Summit in Washington on April 15, 2004.

The programme aims to reduce fuel consumption from the operation of MAC by at least 30% and halve direct refrigerant emissions. The cumulative reduction in fuel use and containment of refrigerants could avoid more than 35 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year.

HFC 134a is used in automotive air-conditioning because of its performance and its safety profile. Its use has [dramatically reduced the environmental impact](#) of air-conditioning in motor vehicles.

Importantly this programme will deliver benefits that can provide an almost immediate environmental gain, extending over time to over 300 million vehicles worldwide. These improvements will set new environmental standards for air-conditioning technologies.

[Fluorocarbons producers Press Release.](#)

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UNEP highlights the success of the Montreal protocol

The UNEP 2003 Annual Report is proclaiming the Montreal Protocol as the world's most successful multilateral environmental agreement. Indeed, says the Report *"Global production and consumption of most ozone-depleting substances (ODS) has peaked and is declining, leading scientists to cautiously predict a gradual recovery of the Earth's ozone shield by the middle of the century."*

Source: http://www.unep.org/AnnualReport/2003/AR_2003/ATMOSPHERE.pdf

HFCs selected for recent building projects in the Netherlands

HFCs were recently chosen as refrigerant for some significant building projects in the Netherlands, among them Hospitals, Universities, and the Environment Ministry ([VROM](#)) building.

The Netherlands are well known for their environment concern and have set up a model refrigeration control system ([STEK](#)) to keep HFCs emissions at a minimum. These choices confirm clearly the advantages of HFCs, especially for keeping patients in hygienic conditions, and for bringing people comfort in their working environment.

Examples of recent building projects

VROM (Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environmental Management), Den Haag
Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum (LUMC), Leiden
Willem Alexander Ziekenhuis, Den Bosch
Hogere Economische School (HES) Rotterdam
Saxion Hogeschool, Enschede

Source: Equipment manufacturer

Workshop on the theme "Responsible use of HFCs"

On July 27 2004, [EPEE](#) and EFCTC organized in Brussels a workshop on the theme «Responsible use of HFCs ». The aim of the workshop was a practical presentation – including a live demonstration of equipment- of the principles of containment, maintenance operations and monitoring of HFCs in refrigeration and air conditioning applications.

Existing practical approaches for HFC emissions reduction as well as the industry initiatives already in place in the Netherlands and UK were presented. Another presentation about the recovery of HFCs for recycling, reclamation and destruction showed what happens in reality and what impedes the potential for increased re-use of HFCs.

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Members of the European Commission and several representatives of various of the 25 EU member states took part to the event and to the discussion with industry representatives which followed the workshop and the demonstration. The agenda of the meeting and the presentations can be downloaded from the [Library](#).

HFCs in ice rinks and curlings in Canada

There are roughly 2,200 arenas and 1,300 curling rinks in Canada, which consume around 3 GWh of energy annually. Refrigeration represents over 50% of the energy bill in these facilities.

Facing the mandatory replacement of HCFCs in such installations, Canadian and especially Quebec authorities took the opportunity to improve their energy efficiency at the same time.

A standard arena uses more than 750 kg of refrigerant. Changing design and improving operations could bring this quantity down to only 30 to 40 kg HFC.

The French-speaking agency [PIRAQ](#) (Programme d'Intervention en Réfrigération dans les Arénas du Québec – meaning Intervention in Quebec Arenas Refrigeration), has published more than 10 [feasibility studies](#), from which practically all conclude in the advantage of HFCs, mainly because of their better energy performance.

NEW ON OUR SITE

PRESS ROOM

Press Release **“Fluorocarbon producers support ambitious mobile air-conditioning project to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions”**

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